



“THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for August 2018

Official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force - Citizens Serving Communities: Above and Beyond

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WING TIPS

REDCAP (Missing Garretson Teen) On Wednesday, 8 August, Minnehaha County Emergency Management (MCEM) requested Sioux Falls Composite Squadron (SFCS) join the search for a 16-year-old white male missing since Tuesday and believed to be near Split Rock Creek. Within an hour SFCS had a ground search team and an aircrew ready to go - with Wing and CAP National Operations Center approval - to assist MCEM. Just as they were heading out the door, MCEM called and said the youth had been found. Five cadets and seven senior members immediately responded to the REDCAP, several others said they would be able to assist if needed. According to Lt. Col. Todd Epp, twice this summer they've come within minutes of deploying when the mission was cancelled when the victim was found safe. He said, “Our members are the Minutemen and women of the 21st Century. Instead of grabbing their rifle and running out the door, they grab their 24-hour pack or their flight bag to head into the unknown to help others. This is why we train.”

REDCAP (Missing Oglala Sioux Teen) Very early on 24 August, at the request of Oglala Sioux Tribal Emergency Management the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall, Air Force Base, Florida, placed the Civil Air Patrol's South Dakota Wing (SDWG) on alert to assist in the search for a 16-year-old male missing in the vicinity of Kyle, SD. An Incident Command Post (ICP) was set up at Lakota Sioux College in Kyle. Two CAP aircraft, one from Sioux Falls and one from Pierre went to the Kyle area. A Ground Team went to the ICP where they assisted local law enforcement by patrolling the roads. SDWG requested involvement by North Dakota Wing's infrared sensor (FLIR) equipped aircraft. Several other groups were also involved in the search, for example Pennington County Search and Rescue sent a K9 team. At around 19:00 Mountain Time one of the groups searching south of the area where we were active found the youth. On confirmation that he was alive and well SDWG began to terminate its Search and Rescue mission. Vehicles, aircraft and personnel began to return to their bases. SDWG Wing Commander, Col. David Small, who at the time was in Anaheim, CA at the CAP National Conference served as remote Incident Commander. He thanks the 21 SDWG personnel

who were involved. He also thanks North Dakota Wing for sending their FLIR-equipped aircraft which made it all the way from Minot, ND to Philip, SD. The aircraft would have used its infra-red sensor had the search gone into the twilight hours. Col. Small reported the mission results to the AFRCC and the Search and Rescue mission was officially terminated. AFRCC credited SDWG with a "Find". (No photos taken during REDCAP)

REDCAP (Missing Hiker) The afternoon of 26 August the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Tyndall, Air Force Base, Florida, placed South Dakota Wing (SDWG) on alert to assist in the search for a female hiker missing in Badlands National Park, southeast of Rapid City. However, one hour after we were notified, and before we were able to react, AFRCC closed the mission as the hiker was found alive and well.

- **GROUND TEAM SCHOOL:** From 3-5 August in Pierre, SDWG held Ground Team School 2018. Some 22 students (cadets and officers) and 10 staff members took part. The main focus of the weekend was to give attendees the knowledge needed for a Ground Team on a real mission. Friday, the cadets put up tents and learned how to build an emergency shelter. Saturday, was filled with classes ranging from basic Ground Team prerequisites to advance direction finding training. They finished the weekend with a Mini-SAREX on Farm Island. While the event was designed for the general attendees, experienced cadet and senior members received more advanced training for tasks in urban direction finding, Ground Team member Level 2, and Ground Team Leader tasks. The valuable training helped develop the Wing's Ground Team members. Kudos to Lt. Col. Nick Gengler for putting it all together. – By C/CMSgt Jacob Roth, Sioux Falls composite Squadron



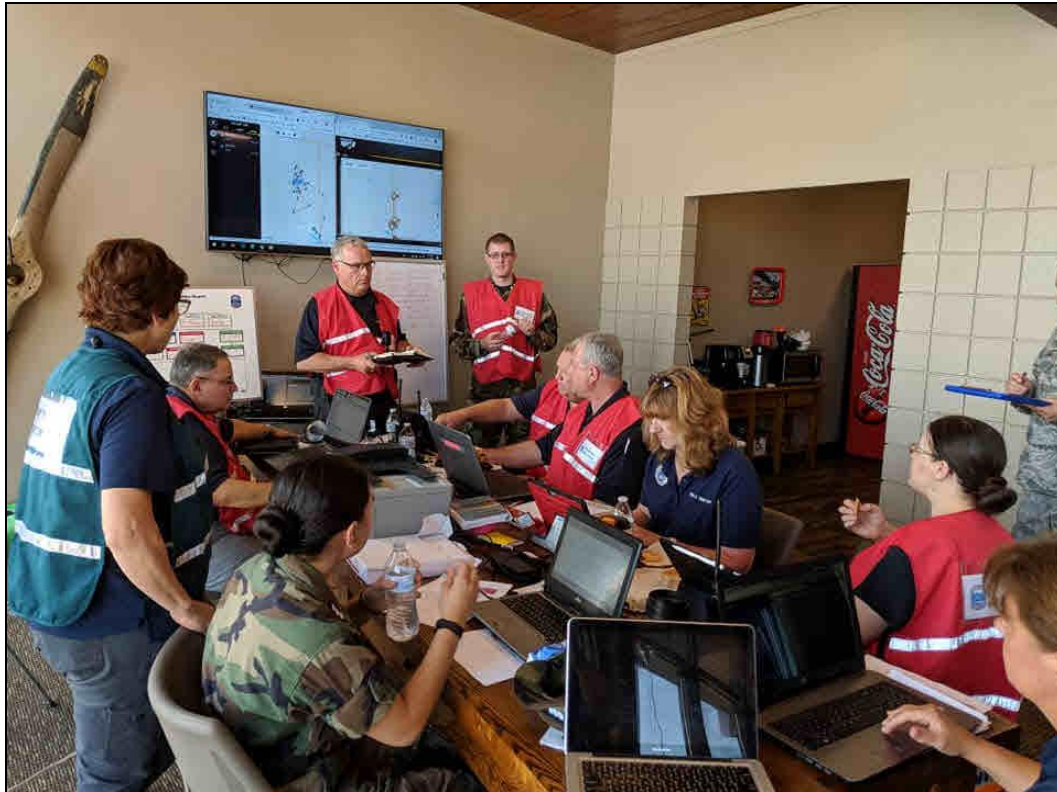
LEFT: PARTICIPANTS PREPARING TO MOVE OUT ON A GROUND SEARCH

CENTER: FIELD FIRST AID TRAINING

RIGHT: RADIO-DIRECTION-FINDING AND SHOOTING AN AZIMUTH WITH A LENSATIC COMPASS

- **SEARCH AND RESCUE EVALUATION:** The Air Force conducted its biennial evaluation of the South Dakota Wing's preparedness to conduct Emergency Services missions during the week of 13-19 August. A team of eight USAF evaluators were present during the week to assess our capabilities and readiness. For the first few days of the evaluation SDWG aircrews were given 13 targets to image. They flew photo surveys of all 13 and uploaded the geotagged photos to the FEMA site. In mid-week the inspectors tried to slip in a red-herring, a request to assist in the search for a stolen vehicle. The Incident Commander recognized that this was not a valid CAP mission but rather a task for law enforcement and politely declined the request. The USAF evaluation culminated on Saturday, 18 August with a full-blown Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) held at the municipal airport in Mitchell, SD. This is a departure from SDWG's usual practice of holding SAREXs at one of our base cities. The USAF team had requested that we hold the SAREVAL at a remote location to test our ability to act in the field. Kudos to our logistics section that successfully coordinated the move of the mountain of supplies and equipment needed to Mitchell. On Saturday, 18 August, the USAF evaluators presented the incident Command Staff with a number of scenarios requiring the use of Ground Teams and aircraft; missing person search, overdue aircraft search, missing aircraft search and tracking simulated aircraft emergency locator transmitters (ELTs). The day began with the missing person scenario with a new twist; the distraught wife of the missing person showed up at the Incident Command Post (ICP) hysterically complaining that nothing was being done to find her husband. She was quickly sequestered and key personnel went to console and

communicate with her. After assurances that everything was being done to find her husband she provided some useful information that would aid in the search. She was kept outside the ICP, offered a seat and water and was monitored by a member. It was good training should a similar situation arise in the future. The remaining scenarios involved Ground Teams, aircraft or both. For the first time in a long time there were sufficient personnel to form three ground teams. This allowed 2nd Lt. Richard Rezac to form a Fast-Response Ground Team. Five SDWG aircraft were present along with 15 aircrew members. In all some 55 SDWG cadets and officers took part in the SAREVAL. The South Dakota Wing gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Mitchell Wesleyan Church for providing billeting space on Friday night for exercise participants. We also thank the Mitchell Salvation Army for providing noon meal service for the participants on Saturday. Most of all, this remote base SAREVAL was successful in large part due to the generosity of the Dakota Flight Center at the Mitchell Municipal Airport in allowing us use of their excellent facility for the Incident Command Post and Ground Team and aircraft staging area.



INCIDENT COMMAND STAFF



GROUND TEAM ACTIVITY



AIRCREWS

• **FAA WRIGHT BROTHERS AWARD:** Maj. Robert Adams, a member of the South Dakota Wing's "Ghost Squadron" (SD-000), was recently presented with the Federal Aviation Administration's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award; the most prestigious award the FAA issues, to recognize individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise for at least 50 years while piloting aircraft as a "Master Pilot". Bob's first solo flight took place in August 1967. In 1982 he joined the Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol



and served for several years as a Mission Pilot and twice commanded the Montrose Colorado Senior Squadron. Bob then moved to South Dakota Wing. Beginning in 1989 was a Mission Pilot for the former Glacier Lakes Squadron in Watertown he commanded the squadron from 1991-1992. He moved to the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City in 1992 where he was a Mission Pilot. Bob's last flight as a SDWG Mission Pilot was in August 2004. As of February 2018, Bob has over 2060 hours of flight time, over 375 of them in CAP-related activities such as Mission Pilot for search and rescue flights, aerial wildlife surveys, cadet orientation rides and Air Force Low-Level Route Surveys. In the photo Maj. Adams is in the blue shirt.

• **LOW-LEVEL ROUTE SURVEYS:** Every year USAF has the Civil Air Patrol do some important work for them. The mission is to survey low altitude training routes that fighters and bombers fly. They fly these routes as low as 500 feet and at speeds up to 600 knots. At that altitude and speed they approach obstacles quickly. SDWG is tasked with highlighting obstacles such as towers and noise sensitive areas such as stockyards. Many terrain items are already on the maps provided by the government. The South Dakota Air National Guard (SDANG) is responsible for seven low level routes and a large Military Operating Area between Sioux Falls and the Missouri River. SDANG tasks us with flying these low level training routes at 1000 feet and noting any unmarked hazards. Photos are taken as the object would appear from the cockpit of a fighter flying the route. The routes are generally over 200 nautical miles long and require two passes. The missions generally take all day. Some routes take more than one day to complete. The information from the sorties is uploaded to a shared file for review and passed to SDANG. This is good flying for SDWG and a great deal for the Air Force. (Submitted by Lt. Col. Duncan Kiernes, SDWG LLRS Co-Project Officer)



THE ANTENNA FIELD AT TURKEY RIDGE IS WELL-MARKED ON USAF MAPS



CELL TOWER IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE MAY NOT BE ON MAPS YET WHICH IS WHY SDWG FLIES LLRS MISSION



• **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew seven aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over six days in August in support of the state's Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GF&P) and South Dakota State University (SDSU). Both organizations have continually ongoing research projects surveying mountain lions, bobcats, swift foxes, white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. The result was 10.8 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 11 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 21.8 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, 2 sorties; Maj. E.W. Filler, 3 sorties; and Capt. Matt Meert, 2 sorties. Depending whom the sortie supported the pilot is accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P. The photo shows a wild bobcat, one of the critters tracked by GF&P and SDSU researchers.

STAFF NOTES



WING COMMANDER

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

• **NEW A/EO:** Please join me in welcoming 2nd Lt. Richard Rezac, Pierre Composite Squadron, as Assistant Wing Emergency Services Officer. Richard just returned from a week at the National Emergency Services Academy doing ground team training. His focus will be on building effective ground teams. Richard has the knowledge and energy to help us create the most effective ground search and rescue teams in the state.



WING VICE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, CAP

• **GLIDER OPERATIONS:** Lets' get the glider back in the air! 7, 8 & 9 September is our first opportunity. We invite all cadets for Glider Weekend to Spearfish. Plans are still being made, but I would like to launch 30 glider sorties between Friday 1200 and Sunday 1600. If we don't get enough glider rides, we will conduct Cadet Powered Orientation rides. Let's get the cadets in the air. We need o-ride pilots, tow pilots and glider

instructors. We have lots of o-ride money, now we just need the team. Contact Lt Col DeWeese, 605-641-2362 deweese@rushmore.com or buck.deweese@sdcap.us.



WING CHIEF OF STAFF

Lt. Col. Nick Gengler, CAP



- SDWG received the North Central Region Cadet Program Award for 2018. Each Region selects one Wing in their Region that shows excellence and outstanding achievement in each of Civil Air Patrol's three core missions. The Cadet Program Award shows we have an amazing group of members in the Wing that contribute to the Cadet Program. We want to thank all of our members that help make our Cadet Program what it is today, and what it will be tomorrow.



WING DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

The North Central Region Cadet Honor Academy will be held 19-21 October 2018. Location is at the SD Army National Guard Regional Training Institute (RTI) at 803 W. National Guard Drive (map and directions are on the Eventbrite Site).

Cadets and Officers need to register on the Eventbrite site called "North Central Region Cadet Honor Academy". Cost is \$37.79 total per person. This includes student's meals, banquet, wooden rifle, lodging in barracks, and challenge coin costs. Registration at the event is from 1000 to 1200 Friday, October 19, 2018. We will depart for home around 0900 Sunday, October 21, 2018. The banquet and graduation are on Saturday, October 20, 2018, at the RTI building starting at 1830. Parents may attend and will need to sign up on the Eventbrite for their meal which is a cost of \$13.10 total.

Cadets should arrive at the event wearing either BDUs or ABUs. Senior Members may wear any CAP uniform except flight suits. Cadets should bring their blue Class B uniform for the banquet. Senior members may wear Class B uniform or appropriate corporate uniforms for the banquet or during the weekend.

Cadets and Officers please fill out the appropriate forms to be either mailed or brought with you to the event which are: CAPF 31, CAPF 160, CAPF 161, and CAPF 163.

Senior members may either stay in the barracks or stay in a semi-private or private room at a cost of \$37.00 and \$38.00 respectively per night or there will be barracks for you.

Cadet and Senior staff positions are still open. Cadets please send a resume for the position you wish to linda.buechler@sdcap.us. Senior members may help as cooks, or support for classes, or help with lectures.

We are looking for 50 students for the activity. Senior members may attend as students as slots allow. Packing list will be made available on the Eventbrite site. Currently 47 slots are available.

If seniors members want a semi-private (\$37/night) or private room (\$38/night), they will need to call Sandy at (605) 357-2845 to reserve the room. At this time, there is no reimbursement for these rooms.

Questions, contact Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, 605-212-7032, linda.buechler@sdcap.us

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068 – CUSTER)

(Items and photos submitted by Capt. Bierwirth and Capt. Weiand)



- **WREATH SALES**: Our squadron set up a booth for active recruiting and selling wreaths for Wreaths Across America at the Custer Farmers Market during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally week. We sold 21 wreaths!

- **SQUADRON BUILDING RENOVATION**: Our squadron building has needed outside attention for many years. It has taken a lot of planning and fund-raising to accomplish this task. We proved that teamwork and planning is everyone's gain. Maj. Richard Geeting spoke to local handymen to get a quote on getting our building painted. Once we received the quotes we decided we had to look for other options. Maj. Geeting spoke to area businesses and began negotiations with Custer-Do-It-Best and they agreed to donate four gallons of stain. The rest of the squadron brought what we had at home and spent a couple of meetings scraping and caulking our building. On 25 August, Capt. Don Weiand picked up the rest of our needed supplies and our squadron family and their families painted our building, cleaned the vans and organized the storage shed. We even had a pot luck lunch to celebrate our accomplishments! Oh by the way... the quote for just the labor without supplies was \$1,600. Our labor and supplies came to \$250. The African Proverb "it takes a Village to raise a child" comes to mind when you see all the partnerships required to invest in our youth. It's well worth it!



BEFORE



AFTER



- **ROCKETRY BADGES**: On 29 August, Capt. Tim Modde and Capt. Don Weiand had the privilege of presenting Rocketry Badges to six Cadets of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron. All six Cadets completed the final requirements for their Rocketry Badges during the AE Weekend in Phillip in July. Pictured from left to right are: Capt. Donald Weiand, A1C Preston Drew, A1C Amelia Weiand, AMN Dominic Dvorak, A1C Alexander Heinrich, A1C Jordan Weiand, AMN Kyleeann Dvorak and Capt. Tim Modde.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Cadet Airman Promotions



Congratulations to Alexander Heinrich of Custer, a member of the crazy Horse Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Dominic Salinas and Trey Stroup, both of Fort Pierre and both members of Pierre Composite Squadron; to Sibi Manian of Brookings and to Emily Williams and Abigail Williams, both of Egan, all three members of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on their promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Gen. J.F. Curry Award!



★ ★ KUDOS ★ ★



Congratulations to 1st Lt. Maria Klosterman of Brandon, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, who received two prestigious Civil Air Patrol national-level Balsem Awards for excellence in Public Affairs in 2017! Her first Balsem Award was in the category of Event Promotion for her “STEMful Night” series for her squadron’s open house. Her second Balsem Award was in the category of Social Media for her presentation of photographs of the 2017 Joint Dakota Encampment on Facebook. There is no higher accolade a CAP Public Affairs Officer can receive than to be a recipient of a Balsem Award.



In addition, Lt. Klosterman took the opportunity while she was at the National Conference to attend the Civil Air Patrol National Public Affairs Academy pre-conference workshop. She brought back copious notes and a wealth of information that will help South Dakota Wing greatly improve its internal and external public affairs activity. In the photo she accepts her Certificate of Completion from Captain Gerwa, one of the instructors of the workshop.



Congratulations to 1st Lt. Joshua Klosterman, formerly a Cadet Lieutenant Colonel of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, who was honored at the 2018 National Conference as the 2017 Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year! In the photo CAP National Commander Major General Mark Smith presents Lt. Klosterman with a trophy in recognition of his significant achievement.

★ ★ NEW U.S. ASTRONAUT CORPS ★ ★

On 3 August NASA introduced the first U.S. astronauts, dubbed the “Commercial Crew Nine” who will fly on American made commercial spacecraft launched from Florida to and from the International Space Station – an endeavor that will return astronaut launches to U.S. soil for the first time since the space shuttle’s retirement in 2011. The nation since then has relied upon Russia to get crews to and from orbit. The agency assigned nine astronauts to crew the first test flight and mission of both Boeing’s CST-100 Starliner and SpaceX’s Crew Dragon. The astronauts are, from left to right: Victor Glover, Michael Hopkins, Robert Behnken, Douglas Hurley, Nicole Mann, Christopher Ferguson, Eric Boe, Josh Cassada and Sunita Williams.



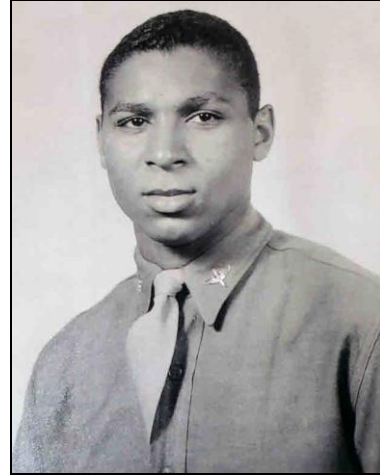
This photo made available by NASA on shows, from left, Sunita Williams, Josh Cassada, Eric Boe, Nicole Mann, Christopher Ferguson, Douglas Hurley, Robert Behnken, Michael Hopkins and Victor Glover standing in front of Boeing’s CST-100 Starliner and SpaceX’s Crew Dragon capsules at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Aug. 3, 2018

The men and women chosen are all present or former officers in the U.S. Air Force, Marines or Navy and will be the first to fly commercial spaceships: SpaceX’s Crew Dragon or Boeing’s CST-100 Starliner.

SpaceX plans to fly a two-person crew, Robert Behnken and Doug Hurley, in April 2019 in a Crew Dragon atop a Falcon-9 rocket from Kennedy Space Center. Boeing aims to launch a CST-100 Starliner capsule on an Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in mid-2019, carrying a three-person crew: Eric Boe, Chris Ferguson and Nicole Mann.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said “We want our country to know that we’re back – that we’re flying American astronauts on American rockets from American soil.”

★ ★ TUSKEGEE AIRMAN ★ ★



Former Tuskegee Airman Robert Martin, who famously claimed to have flown '63 and a half missions has died at the age of 99. Martin was shot down over German-occupied territory on the 64th and spent five weeks trying to return to Allied lines.

Martin attended Iowa State University where he completed a civilian pilot-training program. He joined the Army Air Forces and trained at the segregated military complex in Tuskegee, Ala., in January 1944. Before 1940, African-Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military. Civil rights organizations and the black press exerted pressure that resulted in the formation of an all African-American pursuit squadron based in Tuskegee in 1941.

On March 3, 1945, in what would've been his 64th mission, Martin was cut down by ground fire after an attack mission on an enemy airfield in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. Martin felt a bump in his airplane and realized he had been hit. The engine caught on fire and Martin was forced to bail. When his parachute opened, it cut him on the chin and knocked him out. Martin found shelter in a farmhouse. He was eventually rescued and taken into the headquarters of Marshal Josip Broz Tito's Partisans, and hidden until he could safely return to his unit.

After his military discharge in September 1945 at the rank of captain, he became an electrical engineer with the city of Chicago and retired in 1988. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart and seven awards of the Air Medal. He was among the recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal at a 2007 ceremony honoring the Tuskegee Airmen.

Source: Michael Seale, Birmingham Patch, August 7, 2018.

